

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T GABORONE 2388

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV RH UK ZA BC
SUBJECT: SMITH VISIT TO LUSAKA

REF: LUSAKA 2908

1. IN REVIEWING RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS INFORMALLY WITH
PRESIDENTIAL PRIVATE SECRETARY JOE LEGWAILA SEPTEMBER 28, IT
EMERGED THAT BOTSWUNA HICOM IN LUSAKA, KGAREBE, HAD
REPORTED SMITH-KAUNDA MEETING IN LUSAKA BASED ON GOZ
BRIEFING. LEGWAILA CHARACTERIZED THE EFFECT ON PRESIDENT
KHAMA AND HIS CLOSEST ADVISERS AS ONE OF "STUNNED
SURPRISE AND APPREHENSION".

2. IN HALF-HOUR ANALYSIS OF THE EVENT, LEGWAILA MADE
FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL POINTS:

A) THIS WAS "TYPICAL KAUNDA WHICH LEGWAILA EXPLAINED
AS "UNPREDICTABLE, EMOTIONAL AND PERSONAL". LEGWAILA
SAID HE HAD PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED ONE SUCH KAUNDA
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SURPRISE, I.E., VORSTER'S APPEARANCE AT VICTORIA FALLS
(IN 1975?) AT KAUNDA'S INVITATION WHOLLY UNANNOUNCED
AND UNBEKNOWN TO OTHERS;
B) GOB CONSIDERED KAUNDA'S INITIATIVE AS "EXTREMELY
DANGEROUS", TO THE POINT THAT IF IT BECAME KNOWN THE UK/US
INITIATIVE IN THE UNSC WOULD BE UNDERMINED;
C) CONCERNING THE MEETING ITSELF, THE GOB HICOM IN

LUSAKA REPORTED IT WAS "FUTILE" WITH SMITH CONCENTRATING CRITICISM ON POWERS ACCORDED UK RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, ON UNWARRANTED UN INVOLVEMENT AND "UNACCEPTABLE" PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS. LEGWAILA SAID SMITH APPARENTLY TAILORED HIS ARGUMENTS CAREFULLY TO MATCH KAUNDA'S EARLIER CRITICISMS;

D) GOB WAS CONCERNED AND EXASPERATED AT PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S FAILURE TO CONSULT OTHER FRONTLINE STATES ABOUT A MATTER OF SUCH CRITICAL IMPORTANCE. HE SAID NO OTHER FRONTLINE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE DONE SO, NOTING THAT NYERERE (AS CURRENT PRESIDENT) WAS MORE CIRCUMSPECT AND WOULD "CERTAINLY BE ALARMED" ABOUT POSSIBLE EFFECT;

E) IN SUMMARY, PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAS, IN GOB VIEW, INCURRED GRAVE RISKS AT A TIME WHEN UK/US INITIATIVE SEEMED TO BE GOING WELL. LEGWAILA EXPLAINED THAT FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS' COMMUNIQUE FROM MAPUTO DID NOT (FOR TACTICAL REASONS) REFLECT THE TRUE DEGREE OF UNANIMOUS APPROVAL WITH WHICH THE UK PROPOSALS HAD BEEN RECEIVED THERE. LEGWAILA SAID THE TONE HAD BEEN SET BY PRESIDENT MACHAL WHO SPOKE FIRST AND "AMAZED EVERYONE" WITH HIS FORTHCOMING, "EVEN ENTHUSIASTIC" COMMENTS ABOUT THE NEED TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE UK/US OFFER.

3. COMMENT: GOB IS CLEARLY APPREHENSIVE CONCERNING THE RESULTS AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF KAUNDA'S

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SPONTANEOUS AND (IN GOB VIEW) ILL-CONSIDERED ACTION OF MEETING SMITH. GOB CAN BE COUNTED UPON TO TRY TO KEEP SECRET THE FACT OF THE MEETING FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. NORLAND

SECRET

NNN

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